

# PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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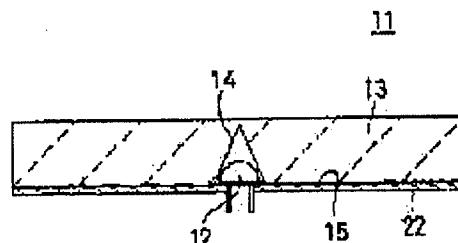
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## (54) SURFACE LIGHT SOURCE DEVICE AND LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE

### (57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To make the luminance distribution of a surface light source device uniform by preventing the partial increase in luminance in front of a light source.

SOLUTION: The rear surface of a light guiding plate 13 is provided with a recess 14 for insertion of the light source and the light source 12, such as LED, is press-fitted and fixed to the recess 14 for insertion of the light source. The recess 14 for insertion of the light source is so formed as to be narrower in width on the side deeper at least at the front end of the recess. The front end of the recess 14 may be provided with curvature at need. For example, a recess of a conical shape may be disposed as the recess 14. As a result, the light emitted forward from the light source 12 is made incident on the inside of the light guiding plate while the light is refracted laterally by the flanks of the recess 14 for insertion of the light source. Then, the quantity of the light made incident on the inside of the light guiding plate forward from the light source may be decreased.



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CLAIMS

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[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] Surface light source equipment with which the cross-section configuration of said depression in at least one cross section is characterized by the thing of a depression which the width of face is narrow by the point at least, so that it goes into the back in the surface light source equipment which established the depression for light source insertion in the optical outgoing radiation side of a light guide plate, and the field of the opposite side, and dedicated the light source in said depression.

[Claim 2] Surface light source equipment according to claim 1 with which the part at the very back of the depression for light source insertion is characterized by having radius of curvature smaller than the distance to the core of said light source in said cross section.

[Claim 3] Surface light source equipment according to claim 1 characterized by having the detailed irregularity for light scattering in the inside of the depression for said light source insertion.

[Claim 4] Said light source is surface light source equipment according to claim 1 which has the structure where the light emitting device was mounted on the metal stem, and is characterized by forming the light-scattering side in the front face of the metal stem concerned.

[Claim 5] Said light source is surface light source equipment according to claim 1 characterized by preparing the dot for light scattering as a consistency becomes large in the field where it was the light source which consists of a solid-state light emitting device like light emitting diode, and the optical outgoing radiation side of said light guide plate and the field of the opposite side curved to convex, and curved to convex [ concerned ] as for near of the light source.

[Claim 6] Surface light source equipment according to claim 1 which arranges two-dimensional and is characterized by establishing the slot for separating light between the light sources in a light guide plate by inserting two or more light sources in each light source insertion section of a light guide plate.

[Claim 7] Said light source is surface light source equipment according to claim 1 which is the light source which consists of a solid-state light emitting device like light emitting diode, and is characterized by said some of light guide plates [ at least ] curving.

[Claim 8] The liquid crystal display characterized by having a liquid crystal display panel and surface light source equipment according to claim 1 to 7 which was made to counter the tooth back of the panel concerned and has been arranged.

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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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### [Detailed Description of the Invention]

#### [0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to surface light source equipment and a liquid crystal display. The light which carries out outgoing radiation from the light source especially is combined to a light guide plate, and it is related with the surface light source equipment which irradiates light outside from a light guide plate front face. Moreover, it is related with the liquid crystal display using the surface light source equipment concerned.

#### [0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] Drawing 1 is the outline sectional view showing the structure of the direct female mold surface light source equipment 2 arranged directly under the liquid crystal display panel 1. If it is in this surface light source equipment 2, the cross-section [ of U characters ]-like light source insertion slot 4 is formed in the inferior surface of tongue of a light guide plate 3, and the straight pipe form light sources 5, such as a hot cathode tube and a cold cathode tube, are dedicated in the light source insertion slot 4. The light-scattering dot (not shown) is formed in the inferior surface of tongue of a light guide plate 3, and light guide plate 3 inferior surface of tongue in which the diffusion dot was formed is covered with the reflective sheet 6. In the opening part of the light source insertion slot 4, the posterior part dispersion film 7 is arranged between the light source 5 and the reflective sheet 6. Moreover, in the top-face side of a light guide plate 3, it is made to counter with the light source 5, the anterior part dispersion film 8 is arranged, and the diffusion sheet 9 is stuck on the top face of a light guide plate 3 from on the anterior part dispersion film 8.

[0003] If a deer is carried out and the light source 5 is made to emit light, the light by which outgoing radiation was carried out will be led to the light guide plate 3 interior from the internal surface of the light source insertion slot 4. Since it is led to the light guide plate 3 interior from the internal surface of the light source insertion slot 4 after scattered reflection of the light by which outgoing radiation was carried out towards the lower part from the light source 5 is carried out by the posterior part dispersion film 7, its use effectiveness of light improves. The light led to the light guide plate 3 interior repeats the total reflection in light guide plate 3 top face, and the scattered reflection in light guide plate 3 inferior surface of tongue, and outgoing radiation of the light from which it separated from total reflection conditions is carried out from the top face of a light guide plate 3. The light by which outgoing radiation was carried out from the top face of a light guide plate 3 is diffused with the diffusion sheet 9, and irradiates the liquid crystal display panel 1 at homogeneity. Moreover, the anterior part dispersion film 8 which was made to counter with the light source 5 and was prepared has prevented brightness nonuniformity, as light did not concentrate on the top face of the light source 5.

#### [0004]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, although the light source was made to counter and the anterior part dispersion film was prepared in order to reduce brightness nonuniformity if it was in conventional surface light source equipment, the brightness of a light guide plate still became high in the front part of the light source, and there was a problem of being easy to produce brightness variation in the optical outgoing radiation side of a light guide

plate.

[0005] Moreover, since the light source of a straight pipe form like a hot cathode tube or a cold cathode tube as the light source was used, the configuration of a light guide plate was restrained, and neither a plate-like circular light guide plate nor the light guide plate which curved in the shape of a curved surface could be used, but the application was restricted.

[0006] The place which this invention is made in view of the fault of the above-stated conventional example, and is made into the purpose is to reduce the brightness variation in the optical outgoing radiation side of the light guide plate by the brightness in the location of the light source being high. Moreover, another purpose is to ease the constraint to the configuration of the light guide plate which originates in the light source.

[0007]

[Description of the Invention] In the surface light source equipment which established the depression for light source insertion in the optical outgoing radiation side of a light guide plate, and the field of the opposite side, and dedicated the light source in said depression, the cross-section configuration of said depression in at least one cross section is [ a depression ] a point at least, and surface light source equipment according to claim 1 is characterized by the width of face being narrow, so that it goes into the back.

[0008] Here, it is contained not only when the width of face of a depression becomes it narrow continuously that the width of face is narrow so that the depression for light source insertion goes into the back, but when becoming narrow (to the shape of for example, a step) at discontinuity.

[0009] If a deer is carried out and it is in surface light source equipment according to claim 1, since the width of face of the depression for light source insertion is so narrow that it goes into the back, incidence of the light by which outgoing radiation was carried out from the light source to the front is carried out inside a light guide plate, being refracted to a side direction on the side face of the depression for light source insertion. Therefore, the quantity of light which carries out incidence inside a light guide plate towards the front from the light source can be decreased, it can prevent that the brightness of a light guide plate becomes high ahead [ of the light source ], and brightness nonuniformity arises, and luminance distribution in the optical outgoing radiation side of a light guide plate can be made into homogeneity.

[0010] The embodiment according to claim 2 is characterized by the part at the very back of the depression for light source insertion having radius of curvature smaller than the distance to the core of said light source in said cross section in surface light source equipment according to claim 1.

[0011] Although the brightness in the transverse plane of the light source of the depression for light source insertion will become small if width of face is narrow at least so that a point goes into the back, there is also a possibility that the transverse plane of the light source may become dark too much depending on the case. In such a case, the quantity of light by which outgoing radiation is carried out can be made to increase to the transverse plane of the light source like this embodiment by giving radius of curvature smaller than the distance to a light source core to the part at the very back of a depression. Therefore, distribution of the brightness in the front of the light source can be made into homogeneity by making the radius of curvature of the part at the very back of this depression into the optimal value.

[0012] The embodiment according to claim 3 is characterized by having the detailed irregularity for light scattering in the inside of the depression for said light source insertion in surface light source equipment according to claim 1.

[0013] Since it is scattered about with detailed irregularity in case the light which came out of the light source carries out incidence into a light guide plate from the inside of a depression, if it is in this embodiment, the direction of incidence of the light in the interior of a light guide plate can be equalized, as a result the luminance distribution in an optical outgoing radiation side can be equalized.

[0014] In surface light source equipment according to claim 1, an embodiment according to claim 4 has the structure where said light source had the light emitting device mounted on a metal stem, and is characterized by forming the light-scattering side in the front face of the metal

stem concerned.

[0015] The light which carried out total reflection to back by the inside of the light by which outgoing radiation was carried out from the light emitting device to back, or a depression is scattered about in respect of light scattering of a metal stem, and carries out incidence to a light guide plate from the inside of a depression. Therefore, the luminance distribution of surface light source equipment can be equalized. Moreover, since a metal stem has the function of the posterior part dispersion film, components mark are reducible.

[0016] An embodiment according to claim 5 is the light source which said light source turns into from a solid-state light emitting device like light emitting diode in surface light source equipment according to claim 1, and near of the light source is characterized by preparing the dot for light scattering, as a consistency becomes large in the field where the optical outgoing radiation side of said light guide plate and the field of the opposite side curved to convex, and curved to convex [concerned].

[0017] this operative condition -- if it is like, since a solid-state light emitting device like light emitting diode as the light source is used -- surface light source equipment -- a miniaturization -- and it can thin-shape-ize. And since the optical outgoing radiation side is incurvated to convex, the light by which outgoing radiation is carried out from surface light source equipment can be made to be able to condense to the front, and front brightness can be raised. Moreover, since near of the light source provides the light-scattering dot in the tooth back of a light guide plate so that a consistency may become large, the homogeneity of luminance distribution can be raised.

[0018] In surface light source equipment according to claim 1, by inserting two or more light sources in each light source insertion section of a light guide plate, an embodiment according to claim 6 is arranged two-dimensional, and is characterized by establishing the slot for separating light between the light sources in a light guide plate.

[0019] If it is in this embodiment, since the slot for separating light is prepared between the light sources, each light source can be made to emit light independently in the surface light source equipment formed in one. It can follow, for example, can also use as character display etc.

[0020] In surface light source equipment according to claim 1, an embodiment according to claim 7 is the light source which said light source turns into from a solid-state light emitting device like light emitting diode, and is characterized by said some of light guide plates [at least] curving.

[0021] this operative condition -- if it is like, since a solid-state light emitting device like light emitting diode as the light source is used -- surface light source equipment -- a miniaturization -- and while being able to thin-shape-ize, the configuration of arbitration can be given according to an application. That is, it becomes possible not only a plate-like light guide plate but to incurvate some light guide plates.

[0022] The liquid crystal display according to claim 8 is characterized by having a liquid crystal display panel and surface light source equipment according to claim 1 to 7 which was made to counter the tooth back of the panel concerned and has been arranged.

[0023] If the surface light source equipment of this invention is used for a liquid crystal display, since the brightness variation of the light source can be reduced, the image quality of a liquid crystal display panel can be raised.

[0024]

[Embodiment of the Invention]

(1st operation gestalt) Drawing 2 and drawing 3 are the decomposition perspective views and sectional views showing the surface light source equipment 11 by 1 operation gestalt of this invention. This surface light source equipment 11 is small surface light source equipment 11 which consists of the one light source 12 which mainly consists of solid-state light emitting devices, such as light emitting diode (LED) and semiconductor laser (LD), and light guide plate 13.

[0025] The light guide plate 13 is formed in square plate-like with transparency resin, such as polycarbonate resin and methacrylic resin, and one depression 14 for light source insertion where the cross section carried out the triangle (for example, cone) is cut in the tooth-back

center section. The light-scattering dot 15 for scattering the light of the light guide plate 13 interior is formed in the tooth back of a light guide plate 13 by dot printing or a light guide plate 13, and really fabricating. The light-scattering dot 15 makes a dot cycle small, has enlarged dot density, so that the part near the light source 12 enlarges a dot cycle, makes dot density small and separates from the light source 12, and it is equalizing the luminance distribution of surface light source equipment 11.

[0026] Although especially the configuration of the light source 12 is not limited, in the light source 12 shown, for example in drawing 4, it carried out die bonding of the light emitting devices 18, such as an LED chip, to the lead 16 and the top face of the metal stem 17 through which it flowed, connected the lead 19 and light emitting device 18 which are insulated with the metal stem 17 by the bonding wire 19, and has covered the top face of the metal stem 17 in the mold resin section 20. Moreover, split-face processing 21 is performed to the top face of the metal stem 17 by machining, etching, etc., and he is trying to scatter over it the light which outgoing radiation was carried out from the light emitting device 18, and arrived at metal stem 17 top face. In addition, although not illustrated, resin mold package articles, such as LED, may be used as the light source 12.

[0027] As shown in drawing 2, the above small light sources 12 are inserted in the depression 14 of the cone configuration formed in the tooth back of a light guide plate 13, and the reflective sheet 22 is arranged in the tooth back of a light guide plate 13. It equips with the leads 16 and 19 made to project through the hole 23 of the reflective sheet 22 by the printed-circuit board which opening of the hole 23 for letting the leads 16 and 19 of the light source 12 pass is carried out to this reflective sheet 22, for example, is arranged behind the reflective sheet 22. Moreover, in the front face (optical outgoing radiation side) of a light guide plate 13, a diffusion sheet is arranged if needed and improvement in an angle of visibility is achieved.

[0028] Drawing 5 is a beam-of-light Fig. for explaining an operation of this surface light source equipment 11. If the light R which carried out outgoing radiation from the light source 12 to the front when the light source 12 was made to emit light reaches the internal surface of a depression 14, it will be refracted by the internal surface of a depression 14, and will advance to the light guide plate 13 interior. Since the light R refracted by the internal surface of a depression 14 at this time is refracted so that it may spread to both sides on both sides of the axial center of a cone configuration as shown in drawing 5, its amount of the light which carries out outgoing radiation to the front along with an axial center decreases very much.

Consequently, the brightness in the front of the light source 12 becomes small, and the luminance distribution in surface light source equipment 11 is equalized. Especially, equalization of luminance distribution can be attained by optimization with the cross-section configuration of the depression 14 for this light source insertion, and the density distribution of the light-scattering dot 15, and brightness nonuniformity can be prevented, without using the anterior part dispersion film like before.

[0029] With this operation gestalt, since he is trying to embed the light source 12 to the light guide plate 13 interior, using solid-state light emitting devices, such as LED, as the light source 12, thin shape-ization of the light source 12 and a light guide plate 13 can be attained, and-izing of the surface light source equipment 11 can be carried out [thin shape]. Moreover, although the light source 12 is small, since the outgoing radiation of the light can be carried out to concentric thru/or a radial, light can be distributed over homogeneity by a small number of light sources 12, and surface light source equipment 11 can be miniaturized.

[0030] (2nd operation gestalt) In the above-mentioned operation gestalt, since the depression 14 for light source insertion was carrying out the shape of a cone, there is also a possibility of the quantity of light being insufficient and becoming dark ahead [of the light source 12] conversely. In that case, it is effective to give the suitable R for the point of the depression 14 for light source insertion.

[0031] Such an operation gestalt is shown in the surface light source equipment 24 of drawing 6. If it is in this surface light source equipment 24, the curve side 25 which did not use the point of the depression 14 for light source insertion as the tip, for example, carried out the shape of the spherical surface is formed. Drawing 7 (a), (b), and (c) show change which seems for the light

which carried out outgoing radiation from the light source 12 to the front to carry out incidence to a light guide plate 13, and to carry out outgoing radiation from the optical outgoing radiation side of a light guide plate 13, when the radius of curvature of the curve side 25 of the point of a depression 14 is enlarged one by one. Here, when setting the radius of curvature of the curve side 25 of the depression 14 of drawing 7 (a), (b), and (c) to R1, R2, and R3, respectively, it is R1:R2:R3=1:5:7. As shown in this drawing, if the radius of curvature of the curve side 25 of the point of a depression 14 is small, the quantity of light by which outgoing radiation is carried out like drawing 7 (a) to the front of the light source 12 will decrease, but if radius of curvature is enlarged, the quantity of light by which outgoing radiation is carried out to the front of the light source 12 as shown in drawing 7 (b) and (c) will increase, and transverse-plane brightness will increase. Therefore, the light source 12 front can equalize the way and luminance distribution which it is too bright, are too dark, or bend by using the radius of curvature of this curve side 25 as a design parameter.

[0032] In addition, in order to make it not bar the effectiveness of diffusing light to the side by making it become so narrow that the depression 14 for light source insertion gone into the back here, it is necessary to make the radius of curvature of the curve side 25 smaller than the distance from the curve side 25 to the core of the light source 12.

[0033] (3rd operation gestalt) Drawing 8 is the sectional view showing the configuration of the light guide plate 13 in still more nearly another operation gestalt of this invention. If it is in this operation gestalt, the depression 14 for light source insertion is carrying out cross-section trapezoidal shape. The depression 14 has for example, a truncated-cone form. If the depression 14 of such a configuration is established, since the apical surface of a depression 14 is Taira and others, the transverse-plane brightness of the light source 12 can be made high, and equalization of luminance distribution can be attained by adjusting the area of even partial 14a of the apical surface of this depression 14.

[0034] (4th operation gestalt) Drawing 9 is the sectional view showing the configuration of the light guide plate 13 in still more nearly another operation gestalt of this invention. If it is in this operation gestalt, the depression 14 for light source insertion is formed by a part of hyperboloid (ellipse). Even if it is in the depression 14 of such a configuration, equalization of luminance distribution can be attained by changing the curvature of a hyperboloid.

[0035] (5th operation gestalt) Drawing 10 is the sectional view showing the configuration of the light guide plate 13 in still more nearly another operation gestalt of this invention. In order to make the quantity of light by which outgoing radiation is carried out increase to the front of the light source 12, the projection of projection 14b, for example, a cone form, may be prepared in a part for the point of a depression 14 like this operation gestalt. Also in this case, equalization of luminance distribution can be attained by adjusting the configuration and magnitude of projection 14b.

[0036] (The 6th, 7th operation gestalt) Although width of face is narrow so that it goes into the back, the depression 14 for light source insertion does not need to be narrow continuously, and may be narrow stair-like one by one like the operation gestalt shown in drawing 11. Moreover, that width of face should just be becoming narrow gradually by the point at least, like the operation gestalt shown in drawing 12, except a point, even if the depression 14 for light source insertion has the part to which width of face becomes large so that it goes into the back, it does not interfere.

[0037] (8th operation gestalt) Drawing 13 is the sectional view showing the structure of the light guide plate 13 in still more nearly another operation gestalt of this invention. If it is in this operation gestalt, crimp (split face) processing 14c is given to the internal surface of the depression 14 for light source insertion. Therefore, in case the light which carried out outgoing radiation from the light source 12 carries out incidence to a light guide plate 13, it is scattered about by the internal surface to dent and by which crimp processing of 14 was carried out, light is equalized in the light guide plate 13 interior, and light has luminance distribution equalized.

[0038] (9th operation gestalt) Drawing 14 is the perspective view showing the surface light source equipment 26 in still more nearly another operation gestalt of this invention. If it is in this surface light source equipment 26, two or more depressions 14 for light source insertion are

formed in the tooth back of a light guide plate 13, and the light sources 12, such as LED, are inserted into each depression 14, respectively. Thus, by arranging two or more light sources 12 to the light guide plate 13 of one sheet, while being able to raise the brightness of surface light source equipment 26, the surface light source equipment 26 of a large area can be manufactured.

[0039] (The 10th, the 11th, 12th operation gestalt) If it is in the surface light source equipment of this invention, it becomes possible by using a solid-state light emitting device like LED to use the light guide plate of the configuration of arbitration. Especially, from the light source 12, since outgoing radiation is carried out concentrically, in the case of the one light source 12, light can also consider as the surface light source equipment 27 which formed the light source 12 in the core of the light guide plate 13 which carried out a radial thru/or disc-like as shown in drawing 15. Moreover, also when using a polygon and the variant light guide plate 13 like the surface light source equipment 28 shown in drawing 16, the surface light source 12 of uniform luminance distribution can be acquired by establishing two or more light sources 12 by suitable arrangement according to the configuration of the light guide plate 13. Moreover, the light source 12 can also be arranged to the curved light guide plate 13 or the light guide plate 13 formed for the flexible material like the surface light source equipment 29 shown not only in the plate-like light guide plate 13 but in drawing 17. These surface light source equipments can be used for the tail lamp of the object for indoor lighting, or an automobile, a turn signal, etc. as surface light source equipment not only the use as a back light of a liquid crystal display but for general lighting.

[0040] (13th operation gestalt) Drawing 18 is the sectional view showing the surface light source equipment 30 by still more nearly another operation gestalt of this invention. If it is in this surface light source equipment 30, thickness is thin as the thickness of a light guide plate 13 goes to the circumference from a core. For example, the front face of a light guide plate 13 is a flat side, and the tooth back is the curve side 31 which curved the shape of the spherical surface, and in the shape of a paraboloid. And the light-scattering dot 15 is printing or really formed in the tooth back of the curved light guide plate 13 by shaping, and near the light source 12, the light-scattering dot 15 is formed in it so that a consistency may become small about a consistency in the location which was large and is distant from the light source 12. The depression 14 for light source insertion which carried out the cone configuration is formed in the center section of the tooth back of a light guide plate 13, the light sources 12, such as LED, are inserted in this depression 14, and the reflective sheet 22 is formed in the tooth back of a light guide plate 13.

[0041] Outgoing radiation of the light R by which carried out the deer and outgoing radiation was carried out from the light source 12 is carried out from the front face of a light guide plate 13, denting, advancing into the light guide plate 13 interior from the internal surface of 14, and being scattered about by the light-scattering dot 15, or reflecting with the front face and the reflective sheet 22 of a light guide plate 13. Moreover, since the tooth back of a light guide plate 13 curves and the periphery of a light guide plate 13 is thin, the light which falls out from the side face of a light guide plate 13 can be lost, and the use effectiveness of light can be raised. According to such surface light source equipment 30, transverse-plane brightness can be high, and the surface light source equipment which has uniform luminance distribution can be obtained, for example, it can use as a lighting system or a source of luminescence.

[0042] (14th operation gestalt) Drawing 19 is a perspective view from the tooth-back side which shows the surface light source equipment 32 by still more nearly another operation gestalt of this invention. This surface light source equipment 32 has the structure where two or more surface light source equipments 30 as shown in drawing 18 were made to arrange as unit light source field 13a. That is, in the tooth back of the light guide plate 13 of one sheet, two or more curve sides 31 are arranged, and the light source 12 is inserted into the depression 14 established in the core of each curve side 31, respectively. Therefore, according to such surface light source equipment 32, the surface light source equipment of a large area can be obtained.

[0043] And in between each light source field 13a, since the slot 33 (boundary line of curve side 31) for separating light in the rear face of a light guide plate 13 is formed, there is almost no

possibility of leaking to light source field 13a which the light of the turned-on light source 12 adjoins. Therefore, it can be used by making it each light source 12 blinked independently as character display 34 for displaying an alphabetic character, a mark, etc. as shown in drawing 20. [0044] (15th operation gestalt) Drawing 21 is the sectional view showing the liquid crystal display 35 by still more nearly another operation gestalt of this invention. This liquid crystal display 35 arranges the diffusion sheet 37 in the top face of surface light source equipment 36 equipped with the configuration of this invention, places the prism sheets 38 and 39 of two sheets which turned 90 degrees on it and were piled up, arranges the lens panel 40 in which many microlenses were formed on it, and arranges the liquid crystal display panel 41 to that upper part. The liquid crystal display panel 41 closes a liquid crystal ingredient between the glass plate 42 which had TFT and wiring formed, and the glass plate 43 which had the transparent electrode, the color filter, etc. formed, and arranges a polarizing plate 44 to the both sides.

[0045] The light by which carried out the deer and outgoing radiation was carried out from the light source 12 goes into the light guide plate 13 interior from the side face of the depression 14 for light source insertion, and outgoing radiation is carried out to homogeneity from the optical outgoing radiation side of light guide plate 13 top face. Subsequently, after it is equalized by passing the diffusion sheet 37 and the light by which outgoing radiation was carried out from the optical outgoing radiation side is able to arrange the direction of light in the direction of a front face with the prism sheets 38 and 39, it is condensed by the lens panel 40 to pixel opening of the liquid crystal display panel 41.

[0046] (16th operation gestalt) Drawing 22 is the decomposition perspective view showing the surface light source equipment 45 by still more nearly another operation gestalt of this invention. This surface light source equipment 45 uses the straight pipe-like light source 46 like a cold cathode tube or a hot cathode tube. The depression 47 for light source insertion which carried out the groove is formed in the tooth back of the plate-like light guide plate 13, and in the cross section which intersects perpendicularly with the die-length direction of a depression 47, the width of face is becoming narrow gradually as it enters in the inner part of a depression 47. After inserting the straight pipe-like light source 46 into this depression 47, the tooth back of a light guide plate 13 is covered with the reflective sheet 22. When the straight pipe-like light source 46 is inserted into such a groove depression 47, the brightness ahead of the light source 46 can be controlled, and the luminance distribution of surface light source equipment 45 can be equalized. This surface light source equipment 45 can also be used also not only as the back light of a liquid crystal display but as an object for general lighting.

[0047] (17th operation gestalt) Drawing 23 is the decomposition perspective view showing the surface light source equipment 48 by still more nearly another operation gestalt of this invention. This surface light source equipment 48 also establishes the depression 47 for light source insertion which carried out the groove in the tooth back of a light guide plate 13, and is inserting the straight pipe-like light source 46 like a cold cathode tube or a hot cathode tube into this depression 47. A different point from the surface light source equipment 45 of drawing 22 is incurvating the tooth back of a light guide plate 13 in the cross section of the direction which is gradually dented on both sides in the tooth back of a light guide plate 13 as becomes thin, and intersects perpendicularly with 47. With this surface light source equipment 48, since the rear face is curving, while equalizing luminance distribution, light can be collected to the front and transverse-plane brightness can be raised.

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## DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

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### [Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the side elevation showing conventional surface light source equipment which is used as a liquid crystal display and which was fractured in part.

[Drawing 2] It is the decomposition perspective view showing the surface light source equipment by 1 operation gestalt of this invention.

[Drawing 3] It is the sectional view of surface light source equipment same as the above.

[Drawing 4] It is the perspective view of the light source used for surface light source equipment same as the above.

[Drawing 5] It is the operation explanatory view of surface light source equipment same as the above.

[Drawing 6] It is the sectional view showing the surface light source equipment by another operation gestalt of this invention.

[Drawing 7] (a), (b), and (c) are the operation explanatory views of surface light source equipment same as the above.

[Drawing 8] It is the sectional view showing the configuration of the light guide plate used for the surface light source equipment by still more nearly another operation gestalt of this invention.

[Drawing 9] It is the sectional view showing the configuration of the light guide plate used for the surface light source equipment by still more nearly another operation gestalt of this invention.

[Drawing 10] It is the sectional view showing the configuration of the light guide plate used for the surface light source equipment by still more nearly another operation gestalt of this invention.

[Drawing 11] It is the sectional view showing the configuration of the light guide plate used for the surface light source equipment by still more nearly another operation gestalt of this invention.

[Drawing 12] It is the sectional view showing the configuration of the light guide plate used for the surface light source equipment by still more nearly another operation gestalt of this invention.

[Drawing 13] It is the sectional view showing the configuration of the light guide plate used for the surface light source equipment by still more nearly another operation gestalt of this invention.

[Drawing 14] It is the perspective view showing the surface light source equipment by still more nearly another operation gestalt of this invention.

[Drawing 15] It is the perspective view showing the surface light source equipment by still more nearly another operation gestalt of this invention.

[Drawing 16] It is the perspective view showing the surface light source equipment by still more nearly another operation gestalt of this invention.

[Drawing 17] It is the perspective view showing the surface light source equipment by still more nearly another operation gestalt of this invention.

[Drawing 18] It is the sectional view showing the surface light source equipment by still more nearly another operation gestalt of this invention.

[Drawing 19] It is a perspective view from the tooth-back side which shows the surface light

source equipment by still more nearly another operation gestalt of this invention.

[Drawing 20] It is the perspective view showing signs that surface light source equipment same as the above is used as character display.

[Drawing 21] It is the side elevation showing the liquid crystal display by still more nearly another operation gestalt of this invention fractured in part.

[Drawing 22] It is the decomposition perspective view showing the surface light source equipment by still more nearly another operation gestalt of this invention.

[Drawing 23] It is the decomposition perspective view showing the surface light source equipment by still more nearly another operation gestalt of this invention.

[Description of Notations]

12 Light Source

13 Light Guide Plate

14 Depression for Light Source Insertion

14c Crimp processing

15 Light-Scattering Dot

18 Light Emitting Device

21 Split-Face Processing

22 Reflective Sheet

25 Curve Side

31 Curve Side

41 Liquid Crystal Display Panel

46 Straight Pipe-like Light Source

47 Groove Depression

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[Translation done.]

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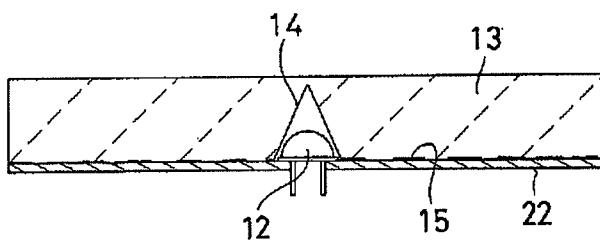
(54)【発明の名称】面光源装置及び液晶表示装置

(57)【要約】

【課題】光源の前方において輝度が部分的に高くなるのを防止することにより、面光源装置の輝度分布を均一化する。

【解決手段】導光板13の後面に光源挿入用の凹み14を凹設し、光源挿入用の凹み14にLED等の光源12を圧入固定する。この光源挿入用の凹み14は少なくとも先端部において奥へ入るほど幅が狭くなるようになっている。又、凹み14の先端は必要に応じて曲率を持たせてもよい。例えば、凹み14としては、円錐形状の凹所を設けることができる。

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## 【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 導光板の光出射面と反対側の面に光源挿入用の凹みを設け、前記凹み内に光源を納めた面光源装置において、

少なくとも1つの断面における前記凹みの断面形状が、凹みの少なくとも先端部で、奥に入るほどその幅が狭くなっていることを特徴とする面光源装置。

【請求項2】 前記断面において、光源挿入用の凹みの最も奥の部分が、前記光源の中心までの距離よりも小さな曲率半径を有することを特徴とする、請求項1に記載の面光源装置。

【請求項3】 前記光源挿入用の凹みの内面に、光散乱用の微細な凹凸を有することを特徴とする、請求項1に記載の面光源装置。

【請求項4】 前記光源は金属ステムの上に発光素子を実装された構造を有し、当該金属ステムの表面には光散乱面が形成されていることを特徴とする、請求項1に記載の面光源装置。

【請求項5】 前記光源は発光ダイオードのような固体発光素子からなる光源であって、前記導光板の光出射面と反対側の面が凸状に湾曲し、当該凸状に湾曲した面に、光源の近傍ほど密度が大きくなるようにして、光散乱用ドットが設けられていることを特徴とする、請求項1に記載の面光源装置。

【請求項6】 複数個の光源を導光板の各光源挿入部に挿入することによって2次元的に配列し、光源と光源の間において光を分離するための溝を導光板に設けたことを特徴とする、請求項1に記載の面光源装置。

【請求項7】 前記光源は発光ダイオードのような固体発光素子からなる光源であって、前記導光板の少なくとも一部が湾曲していることを特徴とする、請求項1に記載の面光源装置。

【請求項8】 液晶表示パネルと、当該パネルの背面に対向させて配置された請求項1～7に記載の面光源装置とを備えたことを特徴とする液晶表示装置。

## 【発明の詳細な説明】

## 【0001】

【発明の属する技術分野】 本発明は、面光源装置及び液晶表示装置に関する。特に、光源から出射する光を導光板へ結合させ、導光板表面から外部に光を照射する面光源装置に関する。また、当該面光源装置を用いた液晶表示装置に関する。

## 【0002】

【従来の技術】 図1は液晶表示パネル1の直下に配置された直下型面光源装置2の構造を示す概略断面図である。この面光源装置2にあっては、導光板3の下面に断面U字状の光源挿入溝4を形成し、光源挿入溝4内に熱陰極管や冷陰極管等の直管形光源5を納めてある。導光板3の下面には光散乱ドット(図示せず)が形成されており、拡散ドットが形成された導光板3下面是反射シート6で覆われている。光源挿入溝4の開口部分においては、光源5と反射シート6の間に後部散乱膜7が配設されている。また、導光板3の上面側では光源5と対向させて前部散乱膜8を配置し、前部散乱膜8の上から導光板3の上面に拡散シート9を貼着している。

【0003】 しかして、光源5を発光させると、出射された光は光源挿入溝4の内壁面から導光板3内部へ導かれる。光源5から下方へ向けて出射された光は、後部散乱膜7で乱反射された後、光源挿入溝4の内壁面から導光板3内部へ導かれるので、光の利用効率が向上する。導光板3内部へ導かれた光は、導光板3上面における全反射と導光板3下面における乱反射とを繰り返し、全反射条件から外れた光が導光板3の上面から出射される。導光板3の上面から出射された光は、拡散シート9で拡散されて液晶表示パネル1を均一に照射する。また、光源5と対向させて設けた前部散乱膜8は、光源5の上面で光が集中しないようにして輝度ムラを防止している。

## 【0004】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】 しかしながら、従来の面光源装置にあっては、輝度ムラを低減するために光源に対向させて前部散乱膜を設けているが、それでも光源の前面部分で導光板の輝度が高くなり、導光板の光出射面に輝度バラツキを生じ易いという問題があった。

【0005】 また、光源として熱陰極管や冷陰極管のような直管形の光源を用いているので、導光板の形状が制約され、円形平板状の導光板や曲面状に湾曲した導光板などを用いることができず、用途が限られていた。

【0006】 本発明は叙上の従来例の欠点に鑑みてなされたものであり、その目的とするところは、光源の位置における輝度が高いことによる導光板の光出射面における輝度バラツキを低減することにある。また、別な目的は、光源に基づく導光板の形状に対する制約を緩和することにある。

## 【0007】

【発明の開示】 請求項1に記載の面光源装置は、導光板の光出射面と反対側の面に光源挿入用の凹みを設け、前記凹み内に光源を納めた面光源装置において、少なくとも1つの断面における前記凹みの断面形状が、凹みの少なくとも先端部で、奥に入るほどその幅が狭くなっていることを特徴としている。

【0008】 ここで、光源挿入用の凹みが、奥に入るほどその幅が狭くなっているとは、凹みの幅が連続的に狭くなつてゆく場合に限らず、不連続に(例えば、ステップ状に)狭くなつてゆく場合も含まれる。

【0009】 しかして、請求項1に記載の面光源装置にあっては、光源挿入用凹みの幅が奥に入るほど狭くなっているので、光源から前方へ出射された光は光源挿入用凹みの側面で側方向へ屈折しながら導光板内部へ入射する。従って、光源から前方へ向けて導光板内部へ入射させられる光量を減少させることができ、光源の前方で導

光板の輝度が高くなつて輝度ムラが生じるのを防止し、導光板の光出射面における輝度分布を均一にすることができる。

【0010】請求項2に記載の実施態様は、請求項1記載の面光源装置において、前記断面において、光源挿入用の凹みの最も奥の部分が、前記光源の中心までの距離よりも小さな曲率半径を有することを特徴としている。

【0011】光源挿入用の凹みの少なくとも先端部が、奥に入るほど幅が狭くなつていると、光源の正面における輝度が小さくなるが、場合によっては光源の正面が暗くなり過ぎる恐れもある。そのような場合には、この実施態様のように、凹みの最も奥の部分に光源中心までの距離よりも小さな曲率半径を持たせることにより、光源の正面へ出射される光量を増加させることができる。従って、この凹みの最も奥の部分の曲率半径を最適な値にすることにより、光源の前方における輝度の分布を均一にすることができる。

【0012】請求項3に記載の実施態様は、請求項1記載の面光源装置において、前記光源挿入用の凹みの内面に、光散乱用の微細な凹凸を有することを特徴としている。

【0013】この実施態様にあっては、光源から出た光が凹みの内面から導光板内に入射する際に、微細な凹凸によって散乱されるので、導光板内部における光の入射方向を均一化することができ、ひいては光出射面における輝度分布を均一化することができる。

【0014】請求項4に記載の実施態様は、請求項1記載の面光源装置において、前記光源が金属ステムの上に発光素子を実装された構造を有し、当該金属ステムの表面には光散乱面が形成されていることを特徴としている。

【0015】発光素子から後方へ出射された光もしくは凹みの内面で後方へ全反射した光は、金属ステムの光散乱面で散乱され、凹みの内面から導光板に入射する。従って、面光源装置の輝度分布を均一化することができる。また、金属ステムが後部散乱膜の機能を持つことで、部品点数を削減できる。

【0016】請求項5に記載の実施態様は、請求項1記載の面光源装置において、前記光源が発光ダイオードのような固体発光素子からなる光源であつて、前記導光板の光出射面と反対側の面が凸状に湾曲し、当該凸状に湾曲した面に、光源の近傍ほど密度が大きくなるようにして、光散乱用ドットが設けられていることを特徴としている。

【0017】この実施態様にあっては、光源として発光ダイオードのような固体発光素子を用いているので、面光源装置を小型化及び薄型化することができる。しかも、光出射面を凸状に湾曲させているので、面光源装置から出射される光を前方へ集光させることができ、前面輝度を向上させることができる。また、導光板の背面に

は光源の近傍ほど密度が大きくなるように光散乱ドットを設けているので、輝度分布の均一性を高めることができる。

【0018】請求項6に記載の実施態様は、請求項1記載の面光源装置において、複数個の光源を導光板の各光源挿入部に挿入することによって2次元的に配列し、光源と光源の間において光を分離するための溝を導光板に設けたことを特徴としている。

【0019】この実施態様にあっては、光源と光源の間に光を分離するための溝を設けているので、一体に形成された面光源装置において各光源を独立して発光させることができる。従つて、例えは文字表示装置などとして用いることもできる。

【0020】請求項7に記載の実施態様は、請求項1記載の面光源装置において、前記光源が発光ダイオードのような固体発光素子からなる光源であつて、前記導光板の少なくとも一部が湾曲していることを特徴としている。

【0021】この実施態様にあっては、光源として発光ダイオードのような固体発光素子を用いているので、面光源装置を小型化及び薄型化することができると共に用途に応じて任意の形状を持たせることができ。すなわち、平板状の導光板に限らず、導光板の一部を湾曲させることも可能になる。

【0022】請求項8に記載の液晶表示装置は、液晶表示パネルと、当該パネルの背面に対向させて配置された請求項1～7に記載の面光源装置とを備えたことを特徴としている。

【0023】本発明の面光源装置を液晶表示装置に用いれば、光源の輝度バラツキを低減できるので、液晶表示パネルの画像品質を向上させることができる。

#### 【0024】

#### 【発明の実施の形態】

(第1の実施形態) 図2及び図3は本発明の一実施形態による面光源装置11を示す分解斜視図及び断面図である。この面光源装置11は、主として発光ダイオード(LED)や半導体レーザー(LD)等の固体発光素子からなる1個の光源12と導光板13からなる小型の面光源装置11である。

【0025】導光板13はポリカーボネイト樹脂やメタクリル樹脂等の透明樹脂によって四角平板状に形成されており、その背面中央部には断面が三角形(例えは、円錐形)とした光源挿入用凹み14が1つ凹設されている。導光板13の背面には、ドット印刷もしくは導光板13と一体成形することにより、導光板13内部の光を散乱させるための光散乱ドット15が形成されている。光散乱ドット15は、光源12に近い箇所ほどドット周期を大きくしてドット密度を小さくし、光源12から離れるほどドット周期を小さくしてドット密度を大きくしてあり、面光源装置11の輝度分布を均一化している。

【0026】光源12の形状は特に限定されるものではないが、例えば図4に示す光源12では、リード16と導通した金属システム17の上面にLEDチップ等の発光素子18をダイボンディングし、金属システム17と絶縁されているリード19と発光素子18をボンディングワイヤー19によって結線し、金属システム17の上面をモールド樹脂部20で覆っている。また、金属システム17の上面には、機械加工やエッティング等によって粗面加工21が施されており、発光素子18から出射されて金属システム17上面に達した光を散乱させるようにしている。なお、図示しないが、光源12としては、LED等の樹脂モールドパッケージ品を用いてもよい。

【0027】図2に示すように、導光板13の背面に形成された円錐形状の凹み14には、上記のような小型の光源12が挿入されており、導光板13の背面には反射シート22が配置されている。この反射シート22には、光源12のリード16、19を通すための孔23が開口されており、例えば反射シート22の背後に配置されているプリント配線基板に反射シート22の孔23を通して突出させられたリード16、19を装着する。また、導光板13の前面(光出射面)には、必要に応じて拡散シートが配置され、視野角の向上が図られる。

【0028】図5はこの面光源装置11の作用を説明するための光線図である。光源12を発光させると、光源12から前方へ出射した光Rは、凹み14の内壁面に達すると、凹み14の内壁面で屈折して導光板13内部へ進入する。このとき凹み14の内壁面で屈折された光Rは、図5に示すように円錐形状の軸心を挟んで両側へ広がるように屈折するので、軸心に沿って前方へ出射する光の量が非常に少なくなる。この結果、光源12の前方における輝度が小さくなり、面光源装置11における輝度分布が均一化される。特に、この光源挿入用の凹み14の断面形状と光散乱ドット15の密度分布との最適化により輝度分布の均一化を図ることができ、従来のように前部散乱膜を用いることなく輝度ムラを防止できる。

【0029】この実施形態では、光源12としてLED等の固体発光素子を用い、光源12を導光板13内部に埋め込むようにしているので、光源12と導光板13の薄型化を図ることができ、面光源装置11を薄型化できる。また、光源12が小さいにも拘らず、光を同心状ないし放射状に出射できるので、少ない数の光源12で光を均一に分布させることができ、面光源装置11を小型化できる。

【0030】(第2の実施形態)上記実施形態においては、光源挿入用の凹み14が円錐状をしていたので、逆に光源12の前方で光量が不足して暗くなる恐れもある。その場合には、光源挿入用の凹み14の先端部に適当なアールを持たせることが有効である。

【0031】このような実施形態を図6の面光源装置24に示す。この面光源装置24にあっては、光源挿入用

の凹み14の先を尖端とせず、例えば球面状をした湾曲面25を形成している。図7(a)(b)(c)は、凹み14の先端部の湾曲面25の曲率半径を順次大きくしたとき、光源12から前方へ出射した光が導光板13へ入射して導光板13の光出射面から出射する様子の変化を示している。ここで、図7(a)(b)(c)の凹み14の湾曲面25の曲率半径をそれぞれR1、R2、R3とするとき、R1：R2：R3=1：5：7となっている。この図から分かるように、凹み14の先端部の湾曲面25の曲率半径が小さいと図7(a)のように光源12の前方へ出射される光量が少なくなるが、曲率半径を大きくすると、図7(b)(c)に示すように光源12の前方へ出射される光量が多くなって正面輝度が増加する。従って、この湾曲面25の曲率半径を設計パラメータとすることにより、光源12前方が明る過ぎたり暗過ぎたりしないよう、輝度分布を均一化することができる。

【0032】なお、ここで光源挿入用の凹み14を奥へ入るほど狭くなるようにすることによって光を側方へ拡散させる効果を妨げないようにするために、湾曲面25の曲率半径は、湾曲面25から光源12の中心までの距離よりも小さくしておく必要がある。

【0033】(第3の実施形態)図8は本発明のさらに別な実施形態における導光板13の形状を示す断面図である。この実施形態にあっては、光源挿入用の凹み14が断面台形状をしている。凹み14は例えば円錐台形をしている。このような形状の凹み14を設ければ、凹み14の先端面が平らになっているので、光源12の正面輝度を高くすることができ、この凹み14の先端面の平らな部分14aの面積を調整することにより輝度分布の均一化を図ることができる。

【0034】(第4の実施形態)図9は本発明のさらに別な実施形態における導光板13の形状を示す断面図である。この実施形態にあっては、光源挿入用の凹み14が双曲面(橢円)の一部によって形成されている。このような形状の凹み14にあっても、双曲面の曲率を変化させることにより、輝度分布の均一化を図ることができる。

【0035】(第5の実施形態)図10は本発明のさらに別な実施形態における導光板13の形状を示す断面図である。光源12の前方へ出射される光量を増加させるためには、この実施形態のように、凹み14の先端部分に突起14b、例えば円錐形の突起を設けてもよい。この場合にも、突起14bの形状や大きさを調整することにより、輝度分布の均一化を図ることができる。

【0036】(第6、第7の実施形態)光源挿入用の凹み14は、奥へ入るほど幅が狭くなっているが、連続的に狭くなっている必要はなく、図11に示す実施形態のように階段状に順次狭くなっていてもよい。また、光源挿入用の凹み14は、少なくとも先端部で幅が次第に狭

くなつていればよく、図12に示す実施形態のように、先端部以外では奥へ入るほど幅が広くなる部分があつても差し支えない。

【0037】(第8の実施形態)図13は本発明のさらに別な実施形態における導光板13の構造を示す断面図である。この実施形態にあつては、光源挿入用の凹み14の内壁面にシボ(粗面)加工14cを施している。従って、光源12から出射した光が導光板13に入射する際、光は凹み14のシボ加工された内壁面で散乱され、導光板13内部で光が均一化され、輝度分布を均一化される。

【0038】(第9の実施形態)図14は本発明のさらに別な実施形態における面光源装置26を示す斜視図である。この面光源装置26にあつては、導光板13の背面に複数箇所の光源挿入用凹み14を形成し、各凹み14内にそれぞれLED等の光源12を挿入したものである。このように1枚の導光板13に複数の光源12を配置することにより、面光源装置26の輝度を向上させることができると共に大面積の面光源装置26を製作することができる。

【0039】(第10、第11、第12の実施形態)本発明の面光源装置にあつては、LEDのような固体発光素子を用いることにより、任意の形状の導光板を用いることが可能になる。特に、光源12からは光が放射状ないし同心状に出射されるので、1個の光源12の場合には、図15に示すような円板状をした導光板13の中心に光源12を設けた面光源装置27とすることもできる。また、図16に示す面光源装置28のように多角形や異形の導光板13を用いる場合も、その導光板13の形状に合わせて複数の光源12を適当な配置で設けることにより均一な輝度分布の面光源12を得ることができる。また、平板状の導光板13に限らず、図17に示す面光源装置29のように、湾曲した導光板13やフレキシブルな素材で形成された導光板13に光源12を配置することもできる。これらの面光源装置は液晶表示装置のバックライトとしての使用に限らず、一般照明用の面光源装置として室内照明用や自動車のテールランプ、方向指示器などにも用いることができる。

【0040】(第13の実施形態)図18は本発明のさらに別な実施形態による面光源装置30を示す断面図である。この面光源装置30にあつては、導光板13の厚みは中心から周辺へ向かうにつれて厚みが薄くなっている。例えば、導光板13の前面は平坦面となっており、背面は球面状や放物面状に湾曲した湾曲面31となっている。そして、湾曲した導光板13の背面には、印刷もしくは一体成形により光散乱ドット15が形成されており、光散乱ドット15は光源12の近傍では密度を大きく、光源12から離れた位置では密度が小さくなるように設けられている。導光板13の背面の中央部には円錐形状をした光源挿入用の凹み14が形成されており、こ

の凹み14にLED等の光源12が挿入され、導光板13の背面には反射シート22が設けられている。

【0041】しかし、光源12から出射された光Rは凹み14の内壁面から導光板13内部に進入し、光散乱ドット15で散乱し、あるいは導光板13の前面及び反射シート22で反射しながら導光板13の前面から出射される。また、導光板13の背面が湾曲して導光板13の周辺部が薄くなっているので、導光板13の側面から抜ける光をなくすことができ、光の利用効率を向上させることができる。このような面光源装置30によれば、正面輝度が高く、均一な輝度分布を有する面光源装置を得ることができ、例えば照明装置や発光源として用いることができる。

【0042】(第14の実施形態)図19は本発明のさらに別な実施形態による面光源装置32を示す背面側からの斜視図である。この面光源装置32は図18に示したような面光源装置30を単位光源領域13aとして複数個配列させた構造となっている。すなわち、1枚の導光板13の背面には、複数個の湾曲面31が配列されており、各湾曲面31の中心部に設けられた凹み14内にそれぞれ光源12が挿入されている。従って、このような面光源装置32によれば、大面積の面光源装置を得ることができる。

【0043】しかも、各光源領域13a間においては、導光板13の裏面において光を分離するための溝33(湾曲面31どうしの境界線)が形成されているので、点灯している光源12の光が隣接する光源領域13aへ漏れる恐れがほとんどない。従って、各光源12を単独で点滅させられることにより、図20に示すような文字やマーク等を表示するための文字表示装置34として使用することができる。

【0044】(第15の実施形態)図21は本発明のさらに別な実施形態による液晶表示装置35を示す断面図である。この液晶表示装置35は、本発明の構成を備えた面光源装置36の上面に拡散シート37を配設し、その上に90度回して重ねた2枚のプリズムシート38、39を置き、その上に微小レンズを多数形成したレンズパネル40を配置し、その上方に液晶表示パネル41を配置したものである。液晶表示パネル41は、TFTや配線を形成されたガラス板42と透明電極やカラーフィルタ等を形成されたガラス板43の間に液晶材料を封止し、その両面に偏光板44を配置したものである。

【0045】しかし、光源12から出射された光は光源挿入用の凹み14の側面から導光板13内部に入り、導光板13上面の光出射面から均一に出射される。ついで、光出射面から出射された光は、拡散シート37を通過することによって均一化され、プリズムシート38、39で前面方向へ光の方向を揃えられた後、レンズパネル40で液晶表示パネル41の画素開口へ集光される。

【0046】(第16の実施形態)図22は本発明のさ

らに別な実施形態による面光源装置45を示す分解斜視図である。この面光源装置45は冷陰極管や熱陰極管のような直管状光源46を用いたものである。平板状の導光板13の背面には、溝状をした光源挿入用の凹み47が形成されており、凹み47の長さ方向と直交する断面においては、凹み47の奥に入るに従ってその幅が次第に狭くなっている。直管状の光源46を該凹み47内に挿入した後、導光板13の背面は反射シート22によって覆われる。このような溝状の凹み47内に直管状の光源46を挿入した場合においても、光源46の前方の輝度を抑制することができ、面光源装置45の輝度分布を均一化することができる。この面光源装置45も液晶表示装置のバックライトに限らず、一般照明用としても用いることができる。

【0047】(第17の実施形態)図23は本発明のさらに別な実施形態による面光源装置48を示す分解斜視図である。この面光源装置48も導光板13の背面に溝状をした光源挿入用の凹み47を設け、この凹み47内に冷陰極管や熱陰極管のような直管状光源46を挿入している。図22の面光源装置45と異なる点は、導光板13の背面を両側で次第に薄くなるようにして凹み47と直交する方向の断面において導光板13の背面を湾曲させている。この面光源装置48では、裏面が湾曲しているので、輝度分布を均一化すると同時に、光を前方へ集めて正面輝度を向上させることができる。

#### 【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】液晶表示装置として用いられている、従来の面光源装置を示す一部破断した側面図である。

【図2】本発明の一実施形態による面光源装置を示す分解斜視図である。

【図3】同上の面光源装置の断面図である。

【図4】同上の面光源装置に用いられている光源の斜視図である。

【図5】同上の面光源装置の作用説明図である。

【図6】本発明の別な実施形態による面光源装置を示す断面図である。

【図7】(a) (b) (c)は同上の面光源装置の作用説明図である。

【図8】本発明のさらに別な実施形態による面光源装置に用いられる導光板の形状を示す断面図である。

【図9】本発明のさらに別な実施形態による面光源装置に用いられる導光板の形状を示す断面図である。\*

\* 【図10】本発明のさらに別な実施形態による面光源装置に用いられる導光板の形状を示す断面図である。

【図11】本発明のさらに別な実施形態による面光源装置に用いられる導光板の形状を示す断面図である。

【図12】本発明のさらに別な実施形態による面光源装置に用いられる導光板の形状を示す断面図である。

【図13】本発明のさらに別な実施形態による面光源装置に用いられる導光板の形状を示す断面図である。

【図14】本発明のさらに別な実施形態による面光源装置を示す斜視図である。

【図15】本発明のさらに別な実施形態による面光源装置を示す斜視図である。

【図16】本発明のさらに別な実施形態による面光源装置を示す斜視図である。

【図17】本発明のさらに別な実施形態による面光源装置を示す斜視図である。

【図18】本発明のさらに別な実施形態による面光源装置を示す断面図である。

【図19】本発明のさらに別な実施形態による面光源装置を示す背面側からの斜視図である。

【図20】同上の面光源装置を文字表示装置として使用している様子を示す斜視図である。

【図21】本発明のさらに別な実施形態による液晶表示装置を示す一部破断した側面図である。

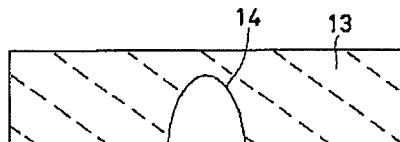
【図22】本発明のさらに別な実施形態による面光源装置を示す分解斜視図である。

【図23】本発明のさらに別な実施形態による面光源装置を示す分解斜視図である。

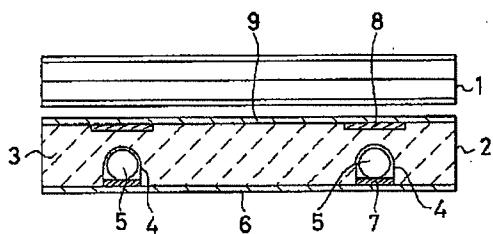
#### 【符号の説明】

12	光源
13	導光板
14	光源挿入用の凹み
14c	シボ加工
15	光散乱ドット
18	発光素子
21	粗面加工
22	反射シート
25	湾曲面
31	湾曲面
41	液晶表示パネル
46	直管状の光源
47	溝状の凹み

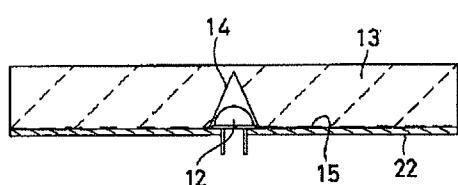
【図9】



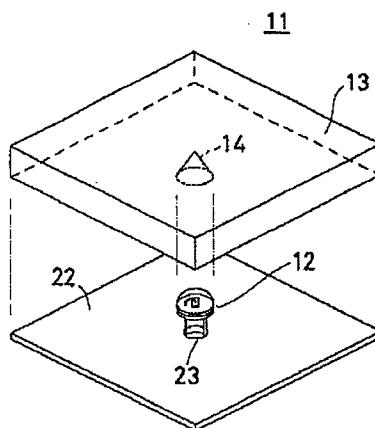
【図1】



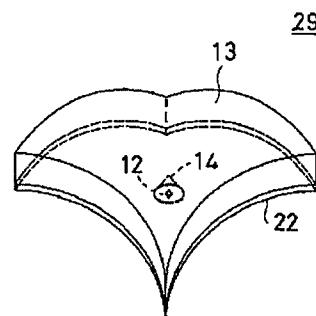
【図3】



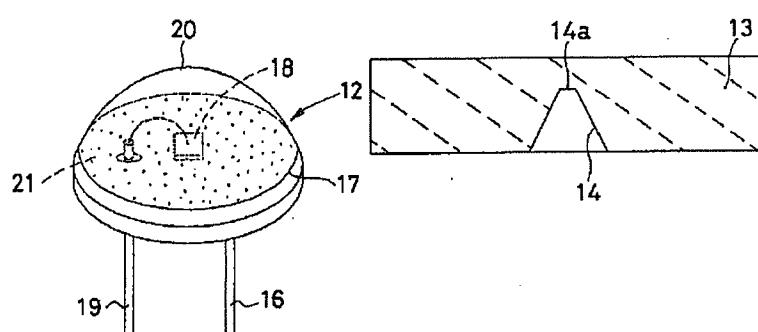
【図2】



【図17】

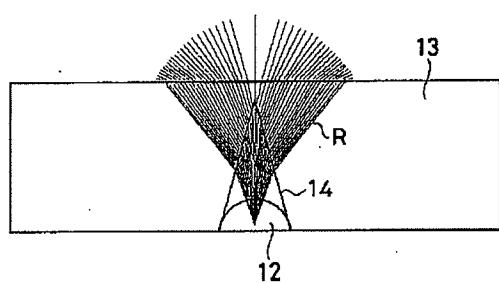


【図4】

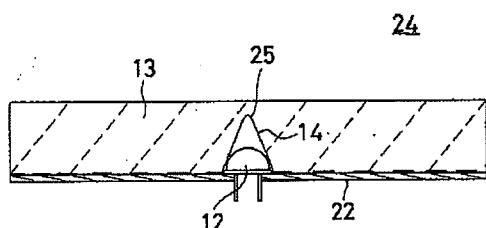


【図8】

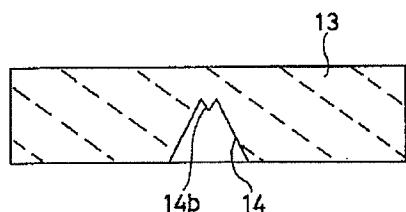
【図5】



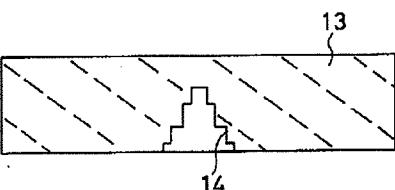
【図6】



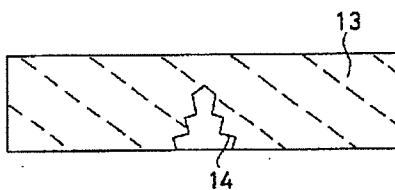
【図10】



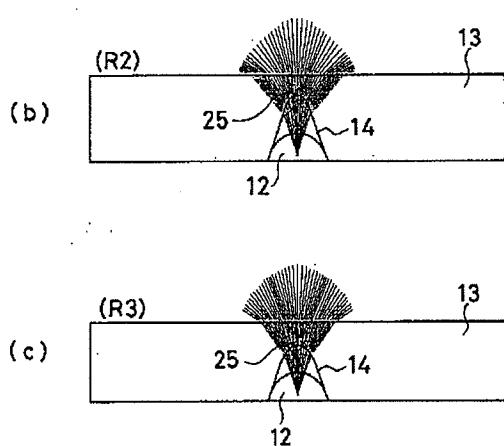
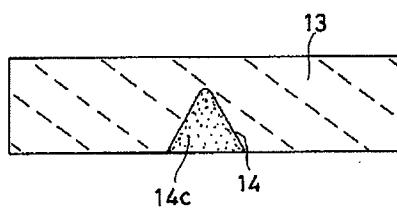
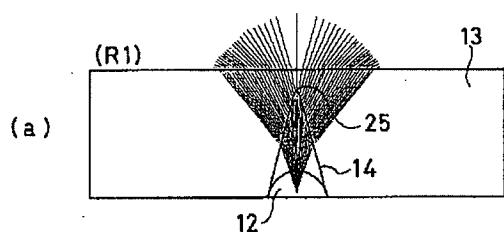
【図11】



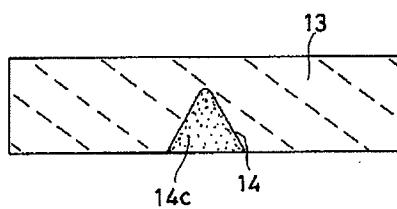
【図12】



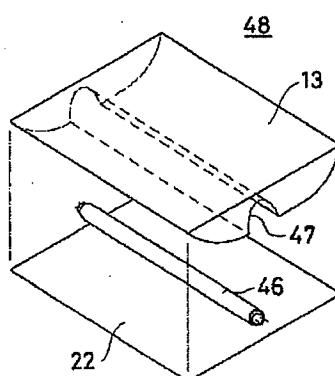
【図7】



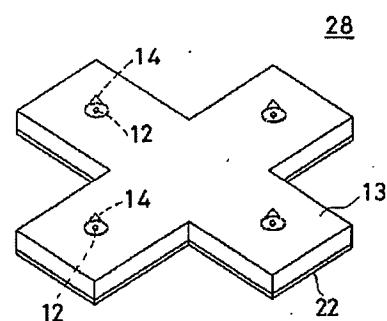
【図13】



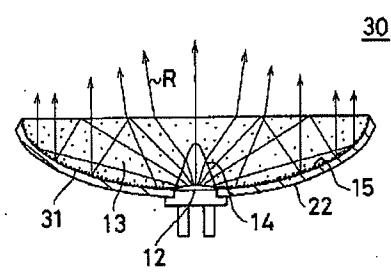
【図23】



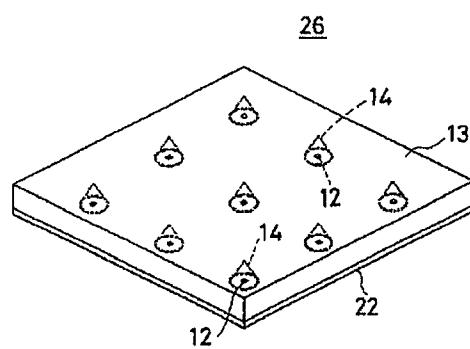
【図16】



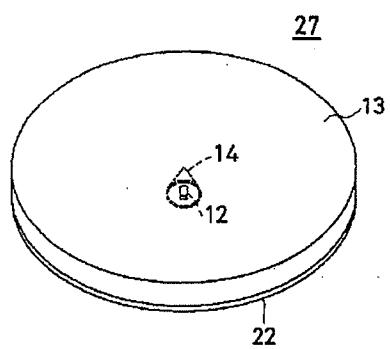
【図18】



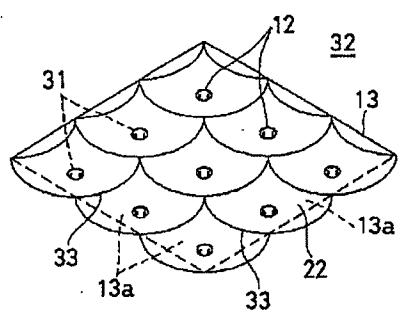
【図14】



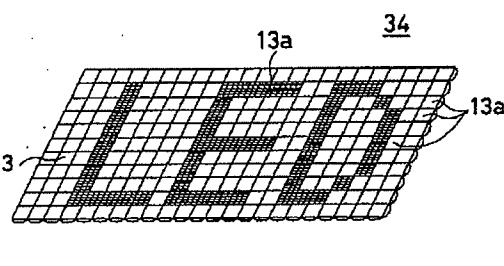
【図15】



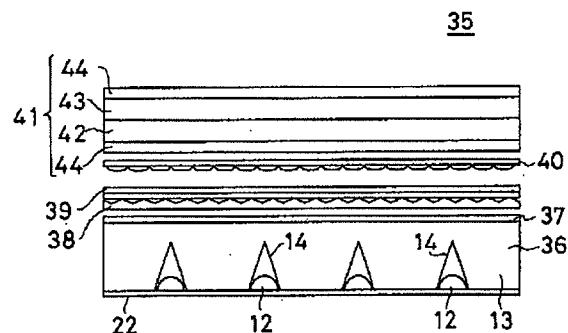
【図19】



【図20】



【図21】



【図22】

